G.A.R.

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

S.U.V.C.W.

THE CLARION CALL

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

1866 VOLUME No. 4 ISSUE No. 3 January 2005 1881

Gettysburg and Remembrance 2004

By Bill Ryerson, PDC, Dept. Secretary

Gettysburg, PA: It was even Better! The Department of Massachusetts and the 11th Massachusetts Infantry conducted another very successful trip to Gettysburg on November 18th thru the 21st. Departing from Newton, Mass., where we left our cars in a secure garage. We boarded our Big New Travel Bus and headed off on the Mass Pike at 8AM and made a stop at Sturbridge Village where we picked up the Western Mass/Connecticut/ Vermont folks and then headed southwest. This year we had travelers from all of New England except the Pine Tree State. After a "pit stop" in New York, we rolled into the Keystone State before stopping for lunch and then continued along while watching a couple of movies and munching on snacks. The bus pulled into our temporary abode right on time at 4:30 p.m., still daylight and warm in the sixties. Our group scattered about Gettysburg, having supper and taking in the sights- (your scribe went on the Ghost Walk– scary!!). Friday morn we got back on our chariot for a very informing tour of the Battlefield, led by the president of the Licensed Guides Association and then headed for Harrisburg and the National Civil War Museum- (after of course a stop at the Old Country Buffet).

Saturday morning brought more good and warm weather and the brave fellows among us got on their uniforms and marched in the annual parade. As usual, our boys were placed right up near the front and deserved the honor. The parade ended at "The Wall, a.k.a. the High Water Mark of the Confederacy", the boys in Blue and Gray did honor to their ancestors. "Abe Lincoln" gave his Address and "General Lee" gave a good account for the Rebs. The ceremony at the Woolson Monument got dampened a little as a shower occurred which also knocked out the Illumination at the National Cemetery, but that was the only bad weather we encountered. Saturday evening was the time for the Remembrance Day Ball held at the Eisenhower Conference Center where the ladies out dressed the "soldiers". (Continued on page 2).

THE NEXT DEPARTMENT MEETING:

Saturday January 15, 2005 at 10:30AM at the G.A.R. Hall in Rockland, MA

Contact the Editor at: THE CLARION CALL 20 Howland Terrace, Worcester, MA 01602 Email: rrodriguez@worcester.edu

Gettysburg & Remembrance 2004

Photos courtesy of William T. Ryerson

Top Left: Remembrance Day March in Gettysburg. **Top Right**: Following the parade and ceremony, Dept. of Massachusetts members exit the battlefield. **Above Left:** William T. Ryerson, PDC outside the National Civil War Museum. **Above Center**: Drum owned by George A. Cole of the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. **Above Right**: DC John Bates with drum.

National Civil War Museum: A MUST See:

Harrisburg, PA: On Friday 11/19/04, the Dept. of Massachusetts went to the NCWM. This museum is a very special place for everyone with an interest in the American Civil War. Among the artifacts is a walkway of valor, made of bricks. Each brick honors a civil war soldier. Every member should be encouraged to honor one by ordering a brick for their ancestor or camp's namesake, or choosing one of the many who fought in the war. There is a monument outside that truly depicts the human compassion of soldiers whether they wore blue or gray. As for the artifacts themselves, they are true treasures. Imagine looking at if not being able to hold a piece of history such as the drum of the 11th Mass that our Dept. Commander was invited to hold. Not only is the NCWM a destination that we could all visit in our lifetimes, it also holds a practical purpose for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Our headquarters is located there. If you've ever gone, please share your experience with the Clarion Call.

(www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org)

(Continued from page 1) Before departing on Sunday noon, Kevin Tucker was busy booking the Quality Inn for the 2005 trip and making plans for a visit to Harper's Ferry. Our luxury chariot rolled back to Boston with of course a good meal on the way. See you next year, it will be here faster than you can believe.

Massachusetts Department Commanders
Past & Present

John W. Bates III, Department Commander 2004-2005

(Photos courtesy of Bill Ryerson, PDC)

The American Civil War has always been the center of our national being. As a young boy, this was very clear to me, even at a very young age. As I was born in July 1955, I can proudly say there was at least one union Civil War Soldier still alive at that time, that of course being Albert Woolson from Minnesota. As the 1960's came, I was old enough to recognize the centennial of the Civil War and all of the interest in its meaning. In November of 1963, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower was the main speaker at the commemoration of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address! (The 100th Anniversary). All of the interest and attention was great, but it slowly faded into the background with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, a mere few days later.

As time went on, I became immersed in reading and studying about our great national tragedy, and it was particularly satisfying to me to learn about the contributions of New England and Massachusetts at this period in our history. I had thought about pursing a military career, but due to health problems was unable to do so. After I graduated from college in 1978, I resumed my passion of studying the Civil War, and became a member of the North Shore Civil War Round Table. It was through the round table that I discovered the S.U.V.C.W. and was thrilled to become a member in 1994. I was fortunate as a young man to have my great grandmother relate the story and pass on to me some artifacts from my Civil War Ancestor, John Jones Wright. My great grandmother had known him quite well as she was 22 year old when he passed away. Fortunately for me, she lived until I was 21 years old! I have been truly blessed!

In 1983, I married my wife Sandy and we have two wonderful sons, Jack and Joshua. After I joined the Sons of Union Veterans, I was elected Junior Vice Commander of Camp 104 in 1994, Senior Vice Commander in 1996 and finally Camp Commander in 1997. As I was always interested in Department affairs, I attended as many meetings as possible. My two friends, PDC Bill Ryerson and PDC Frank Tucker, helped guide me in my work and were very supportive of my interest in the organization. I ran for Department Junior Vice Commander in 2000, Senior Vice Commander in 2002, and was honored and privileged to be elected the Department Commander of Massachusetts in April of 2004 at the 122nd Department Encampment. I would urge all interested brothers t attend as many meetings as possible at all levels, Camp, Department, and National in order to make us an active, proactive and meaningful organization. Our future is in your hands! Let's make 2005 a year to remember!

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
John W. Bates, DC

"The TALL and the short of it" by Ed Coyne **Camp 104**

In my travels, while doing Civil War Grave surveys and personal research, I have seen many unusual situations regarding military headstones. When I find an unusual situation, I try to speak to the workers who tend to the everyday duties at that location. They are the ones that observe the physical sites on a day to day basis. Here are two examples of what I have observed in my travels and the explanations given to me by those workers.

The current measurement of the upright grave marker issued by the government is 42 inches, with its weight being 230 pounds. Using the current length as a guide compare the two pictures below. Number one, is a "bit too tall", while number two, is a "bit too short". While in conversation with the workers at both sites they offered the following opinions. You will observe in picture one there is a tree trunk to the left of it. Possibly, the roots from this tree forced this marker up from its original position. Then again, you will notice that the marker on the opposite side is also high out of the ground. They both could have been raised to frame the plaque in the center, like you would frame a picture. With picture two you will observe that this maker is a bit too short. Obviously it has sunk into the ground. The opinions given to me are that the stone being about twenty feet from railroad tracks, the vibrations from the trains have caused the stone to sink. The other opinion is that the casket ,over time collapsed, causing the stone to sink. Whatever the actual cause, it is the obvious that these stones should be reset. Number one stone is in the Fairhaven Cemetery in New Britain, Connecticut. Number two is in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Dorchester, Massachusetts, which is the only cemetery in he United States that has railroad tracks running through it. Are there any unusual situations that you have observed in your travels? Tell us about them.

(Photo Number One)

(Photo Number Two)

Note: Ed Coyne is a member of Camp 104 and like any member of any camp, his contributions to the Clarion are always welcomed. If you have any article or story to contribute, please don't hesitate to do so. This newsletter is your newsletter. Make it work for you.

G.A.R. Spot Light: <u>General Robert H. Chamberlain</u>

Gen. Chamberlain was a member of G.A.R. Post 10 Dept. of MA. He was born on June 16,1838 and died June 28, 1910 and is buried in Rural Cemetery in Worcester, Massachusetts. Gen. Chamberlain began his military career with the 51st Massachusetts Regiment in the fall of 1862 as a sergeant. And was with the 51st until 1863, he then joined the 60th Massachusetts as a lieutenant. He rose to captain as his unit guarded 5,000 rebels in Indiana. He mustered out in the fall of 1864. He was active in the militia as he reorganized the Worcester City Guards. He also formed the Chamberlain Light Battery of militia artillery. He made brigadier general in 1868. Gen. Chamberlain remained a loyal and active member of G.A.R. Post 10 until his death. He now lies with his comrades in the Great Encampment in the sky.

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GUESS WHO?

Do you know who this G.A.R. Member was? Could he look like anyone who is currently in the S.U.V.C.W?
Answer in an upcoming issue of the Clarion Call.

Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor

Charles D. Copp Co C 9th New Hampshire Infantry
Born April 12, 1840 in Warren County, NH
Died November 12, 1912

Buried in Middle Cemetery, Lancaster, MA
During the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862, Lt. Copp seized the regimental colors, the color bearer having been shot down, and waving the flag rallied the regiment.

(Reminder: March 25, 2005 is National Medal of Honor Day)

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR'S CORNER

The Patriotic Instructor is an honorable position. It is the patriotic instructor who informs the camp members about the history of our country as well as focusing on the civil war. It is the patriotic instructor throughout our organization that have the opportunity to teach camp members as well as school children. Topics can range from battles, biographies and beyond. They also can teach tasks such as the folding of the flag. The limits are only what you set as the patriotic instructor. If you need any ideas or assistance with a program at your camp meeting or anywhere, please contact me, your Department Patriotic Instructor. Remember programs don't have to be too elaborate. Hope to see you in the field!

Civil War Fact: "The Battle Cry of Freedom" was played at Fort Sumter on April 14, 1865, when Brig. Gen. Robert Anderson raised the Union flag over the recaptured fort.

Clarion Call Huzzah!!!

Goes out to Brother Ed Norris

Woburn, MA: Brother Ed Norris, a re-enactor with the 9th Massachusetts Light Artillery and website master at www.9thmassbattery2.home.comcast.net, records and photographs grave stones of members of the 9th. One day he went to Cavalry Cemetery in Woburn to find Artificer Eber Hill. Unable to locate him, he solicited the aid of the ground keepers. Unable to locate the site even with maps, Brother Norris contacted the Catholic Cemetery Association of the Archdiocese of Boston and spoke to Jody Fuller about a replacement stone. The next day, Ms. Fuller contacted Brother Norris and informed him that the stone was buried and that the ground keepers dug it up and reset it. As you can see from this story, that even one member of the organization can have a impact. Imagine what can be accomplished if we all got together and did various deeds such as this throughout the state.

Flag Presentation Ceremony

Uxbridge, MA: On Saturday October 30, 2004, the A.A. Sherman Camp #18 presented a flag to the Charles E. Rice Uxbridge American Legion Post #33 at the American Legion Hall. Presenting the flag was Camp #18 Commander Roy Henry. During the ceremony the 15th Massachusetts Fife and Drums Corps played the National Anthem as the flag was raised. Also on hand as a firing squad was the 25th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. For the ceremony, a horn solo was performed by Past Camp Commander Joseph Hall. Guest speakers included Senator Moore and District American Legion Commander William Barbour. Rendition of the state song "Road to Boston" was performed by the 15th Fife and Drums Corps. A Clarion Call "Huzzah" goes out to every camp that proves that a lot of what happens in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is at the camp level.

"It not only takes a village it takes a camp and it community"

Bellingham, MA: On Friday October 8, 2004, Frank Haley of A.A.Sherman Camp #18 made a presentation to the Bellingham Historical Commission asking them to help him fund the purchase of Generic GAR Grave Markers/ Flag Holders for the Department project of marking all the unmarked grave sites of Civil War Veterans. The Historical Commission voted to grant Brother Haley $360.00 for the purchase of enough grave markers to complete the Bellingham Civil War Veterans' grave sites. On December 15,2004, Brother Frank Haley happily reported that the markers had been purchased and the project completed as all Bellingham Civil War Veterans now have flag holders. Good job to Camp #18 and especially to Brother Haley who proved that it not only takes a village but it takes a camp and its community.

(The photo on the right shows the difference in appearance a flag holder can make)

MY CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR
Harvey Rice Lyon
43rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry

By Donald Reid Member of Dept. of Massachusetts and Dept. of Connecticut

My ancestor Harvey R. Lyon was one of three brothers who enlisted in the military during the Civil War. The oldest, Hezekiah H. Lyon was the first to enlist in September 1861 into the 33rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The middle brother, Thomas V. Lyon, a musician, enlisted in September of 1862 into the 20th Indiana Light Artillery. My ancestor, Harvey R. Lyon enlisted as a fifer in October 1861 and was part of the 43rd Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Of the three brothers, Thomas kept a diary that emphasized the importance of letters from home, family and religion. Harvey wrote home and recounted some amazing stories of his experiences during the war.

Harvey R. Lyon, the youngest of the three brothers was the ancestor I chose to honor in my membership into the S.U.V.C.W. and MOLLUS. Harvey R. Lyon was a clerk in the family grocery store prior to his enlistment. He was the youngest brother not only to Hezekiah and Thomas Lyon, but also that of my Great-Great Grandfather James A. Lyon. Harvey's mother died when he was only ten years old. Stirred by patriotic devotion and following in his brother Hezekiah's foot steps, Harvey enlisted on October 2, 1861 in Company H of the 43rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Harvey's dreams of education were put on hold and at the age of 18, he started his military career which ended in June of 1865. He was promoted to sergeant, then fist sergeant, and finally commissioned in Company C as 2nd lieutenant. Harvey's service took him away from most of his family. However, Harvey kept in touch with his brother Thomas with frequent letters. After the war, Thomas kept the only possible picture of Harvey and his fife, along with other memorabilia that was placed into the archives of DePauw University.

Not quite 29 years old on June 27, 1871, Harvey passed away. He is buried near his mother and half-brother Thomas in a small, unnamed cemetery at the southeast corner of the DePauw University Stadium. A well-worn tombstone is barely readable but upon closer examination reads: "Harvey R. Lyon, Died June 17, 1871, Age 28 y 10 m 12 d, 2nd Lieut. Co. H. 43rd Vol."

(On Page 9 is an account of a story that involved Harvey R. Lyon)

Fife and Drums produce “Old Memories”.

Uxbridge, MA: Brother Tom Emerick of A.A. Sherman Camp #18 is a member of a Fife and Drum Corps. His father, Brother Benjamin Emerick started the corps in Uxbridge, Massachusetts and overtime those with the passion such as Tom and a friend Richard Benoit have performed fife-and-drum music for many civil war enthusiasts. Richard Benoit worked hard the last couple of years to produce a CD. On it are about 27 tracks and 50 tunes. Brother Tom Emerick plays the percussion on the CD and has used his own home for the album’s cover. The title of their CD is “Old Memories”. On the CD are a combination of guitar, percussion and pennywhistles. The CD has been sold at Gettysburg, PA., and has been made available by the corps to be at many musters. If you like the sound of fife-and-drums, perhaps you’d be interested. If you’d like to purchase a copy for $15.00., you can email at rebbenoit@aol.com.

PICTURES ARE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!!!

Left: Camp 18 and Camp 104 combine for recruiting effort in Uxbridge, MA.

Right: Camp 18 Commander Roy Henry shows off his new hat. Bottom Left: Camp 18 member Frank Haley attempts to recruit a re-enactor into the organization.

Below: Chaplin Emeritus E.Gage Hotaling of **L.A. Tifft Camp #15** wishes good luck during a send off to military personnel in West Spring-

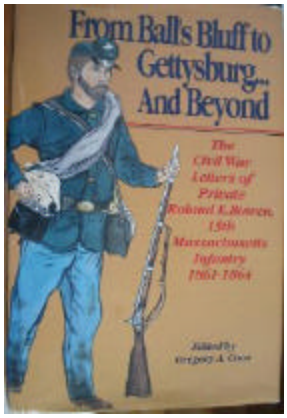
Photo by Mieke Zuiderweg, Sunday Republican

Above article: Photo of Richard Benoit and Brother Tom Emerick, a member of **Camp 18**

Civil War related Word Scramble: TEST YOUR SKILLS (Battles, and Generals)

1. “High Tide of the Confederacy” GSETYTSBRU_____
2. “War is Hell” NSRHMAE_____
3. “Fix Bayonets, Charge!!” NAIRLEHAMCB_____
4. “Decoration Day” NGLOA _____
5. “Hornets Nest” HLIOSH _____

The American Civil War Era Remembered:



The Importance of letters to a Civil War Soldier

By Reynaldo Rodriguez

Most Civil War soldiers who joined the army never traveled far from their homes. A common problem in the ranks was homesickness. It was letter writing that gave the soldiers a chance to connect with their families back home. Some soldiers could read and write better than others and most of the letters were written in pencil. Some stationary were decorated, others were just plain and some were on any type of paper that could be found. Both armies knew that moral was much higher when sending or receiving letters even though you might think that it gives away valuable information. Many rules dictated that the letters could not indicate any military secrets but some did. Those who couldn't read sometimes safeguarded piles of letters that they hopped a fellow comrade would read for them. If a soldier was lucky they had comrades who could write for them. It has been estimated that at least 90,000 letters circulated each day. To this day any letters that can be found are very valuable to both collectors and historians. The letters not only cured homesickness for the soldiers during the war, they now give us a chance to find out how they felt about many topics. So if you ever get a chance, read an original letter, try to think what it was like when soldiers read or wrote it. One book on a collection of letters that I'm reading is entitled "From Ball's Bluff to Gettysburg….And Beyond" by Gregory A. Coco. The collection of letters were written by Private Roland E. Bowen of the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. His letters were sent to family and friends and as the war progressed he went from a war supporting soldier to one who wished the horrors would end. Coincidentally he ended many of his letters with his initials R.E.B.

How Harvey Lyon narrowly escaped death. Submitted by Donald Reid

Note: (This was originally written in the 1860s)

"While Company E was near Atlanta, Harry Lyon and five others went on an expedition. While engaged in digging some sweet potatoes, they were notified by a Negro that they were about to be surrounded by some bushwhackers. Harry, having confidence in the story, tried to get the boys away. They would not stir. Harry left them and on reaching the road met one of the rebels with a large square and compass (Masonic emblems) on his coat collar. He immediately gave the Masonic grand hailing sign (of distress) and was permitted to escape. He reported the matter in camp to a cavalry company. A detachment went to the place and found the five remaining comrades, who had been killed and dragged to the road with bayonets driven through their breasts"

Civil War Mini Expo: A.A. Sherman Camp 18 and Willie Grout Camp 25 are planning a Civil War Min Expo for April 2005. If interested in attending or showing off some displays please keep in contact with either Rey Rodriguez rrodriguez@worcester.edu of Camp 25 or Frank Haley mimida@comcast.net of Camp 18. The Mini Expo is being planned to last for only 3 hours and will be an informative and recruiting event on a college campus. (College students who live in various communities from all over Massachusetts will be in attendance)

Photo by DC John Bates

Last Word: Mark your calendars and be supportive of your brother Camp 104 and the 11th Massachusetts as they once again host the Abraham Lincoln Brunch. This year it is on February 13,2005. Information will be sent out by Camp 104 and the 11th Massachusetts. They have set the example for other camps to follow. If your camp needs help in arranging an event, don't hesitate to call upon your brother camps. After all, we are a BROTHERHOOD.

G.A.R.

S.U.V.C.W.

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1866

1881

VISIT THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS WEBSITE AT:
www.suvmass.org

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